

AWARENESS ABOUT PLAGIARISM AMONG RESEARCH SCHOLARS

IN HINDUSTAN UNIVERSITY, CHENNAI: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The Internet and the World Wide Web have made academic activities easier and faster. It is very easy to copy other's work and presenting as own. Now a day's plagiarism is a great issue of concern and it is very much common in every where. It may be due to lack of awareness of consequences of adopting plagiarism. Most of Research scholars do not aware that it is punishable. This article is made to determine the awareness about plagiarism among research scholars in Hindustan University Chennai. For the study a self deigned questionnaire has been randomly distributed among 150 research scholars in Hindustan University Chennai, and received 144 filled questionnaires have been analysed. Result shows that research scholars are aware about plagiarism but still there is a need to give more knowledge about it. It is recommended to organise awareness program and workshop to update their knowledge.

KEYWORDS: Awareness about Plagiarism, Plagiarism, Hindustan University, Chennai, Copy & Paste, Academic Dishonesty

INTRODUCTION

Hindustan College of Engineering, started in the year 1985, was conferred the "University Status" by University Grants Commission (UGC) from the academic year 2008-09 and under the name HITS (Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science).

Today, Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science is one of the most sought after engineering Institutions in Tamil Nadu, reputed for its highly qualified and experienced faculty and excellent infrastructural facilities for curricular and extra curricular activities, the University has maintained an enviable academic excellence right from its inception. The student community comprises of students from all over India and Overseas. The University has students hailing from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Indonesia, Kenya, Korea, Liberia, Libya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Oman, Rwanda, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sudan, U.A.E, Thailand, Vietnam, Tanzania, USA, etc.

The university has collaborative partnerships with leading universities in USA, Singapore, Australia, etc. It has students and faculty exchange programs with leading international universities. The university has also received numerous accolades and awards over the years. The Centre for Research and Consultancy has been established to coordinate the Academic research, Sponsored Research and Consultancy activities. It is headed by Director (Research) and supported by Two Research Coordinators. The main objective of the Centre for Research is to promote Research in the University.

Now- a –days University Grant Commission (U.G.C.) is making aware of all Universities and educational institutions about plagiarism check and Hindustan University is using Anti plagiarism software “Turnitin” for checking plagiarism in research paper/ thesis.

PLAGIARISM

The term plagiarism stems from the Latin word *Plagium*, meaning kidnapping a man (Masic, 2012). It literally means theft, taking material authored by others and presenting as someone else. It is unintentionally or intentionally appropriating other people materials or passing other peoples works as their own (Roig, 2012).

Many people think of plagiarism as copying another’s work, or borrowing someone else’s original ideas. But terms like “copying” and “borrowing” can disguise the seriousness of the offense:

According to the *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*, to “plagiarize” means

- To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
- To use (another's production) without crediting the source
- To commit literary theft
- To present as new and original idea or product derived from an existing source.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Park (2003) says that it is a type of cheating where students present the work of others as their own for the purpose of academic credit. **Coulthard (2004)** say “the student is expected to learn from the writings of others, develop some new ideas and then express these by using the writings of others as a building block for his own ideas or writings”.

According to **Tsang & Aaron (2005)** “Continual efforts to educate our students about the ills and consequences of plagiarism are desirable. Through these efforts, one could help students uphold academic honesty”.

Smith, Ghazali, & Minhad, (2007) suggests that factors contributing to plagiarism include lack of awareness, lack of understanding, lack of competence, and personal attitudes. No evidence is found to support the suggestion that either pressure or the availability of internet facilities had increased the incidence of plagiarism. The study provided evidence that a significant proportion of Malaysian undergraduate accounting students in the study has been engaged in plagiarism activities to a limited degree; the observed profile was consistent with the incidence of plagiarism activities being associated with academically weaker, male students with a negative attitude to their studies.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To analyse awareness about plagiarism among research scholars in Hindustan University Chennai.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

There are three categories of Ph. D. research scholars in Hindustan University Chennai viz. full time research scholars, Part time internal research scholars and part time external research scholars. This study is based on all three categories of Ph. D. research scholars’.

METHODOLOGY

For the study a self designed questionnaire has been prepared and distributed among 150 research scholars in Hindustan University Chennai by following stratified random sampling method and total number of 144 filled in questionnaire received. These 144 questionnaires have been analyzed through SPSS software.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents- Gender Wise

S. No.	Gender	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
1	Male	93	64.6%
2	Female	51	35.4%
	Total	144	100.0%

It is inferred from the table 1 that majority (64.6%) of the respondents are male and 35.4% of the respondents are female.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents- Age wise

S. No.	Age	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
1	Up to 30	45	31.3%
2	31-40	50	34.7%
3	41-50	43	29.9%
4	51 & above	6	4.2%
	Total	144	100.0%

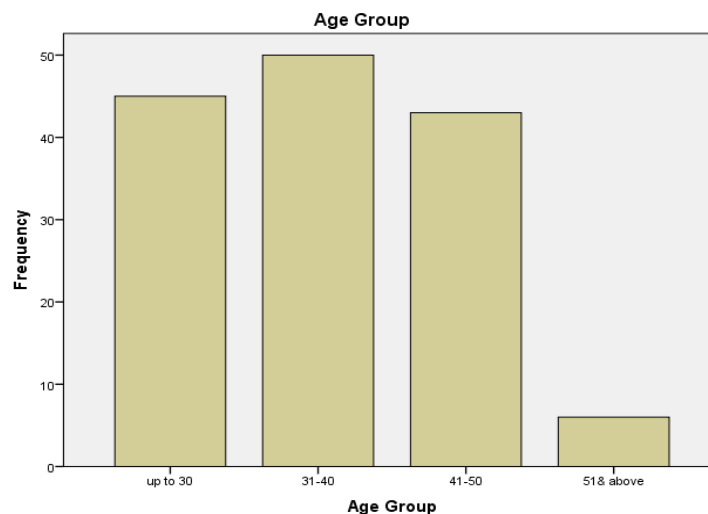


Figure 1: Age Wise Distribution of Respondents

It is inferred from the table 2 and figure 1 that 31.3% respondents fall into the age group up to 30 years. (34.7%) of respondents are in the age group of 31 to 40 years. 29.9% of the respondents are in age group of 41 to 50 years. Only 4.2% of the respondents are aged above 50 years.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents- Category Wise

S. No.	Gender	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
1	Full Time research scholars	45	31.3%
2	Part time internal research scholars	60	41.7%
3	Part time external research scholars	39	27.1%
	Total	144	100.0%

It is clearly indicates from the table 3 that majority (41.7%)of the respondents arePart time internal research scholars. Among the respondents 31.3% are Full Time research scholarsand 27.1% of the respondents are Part time external research scholars.

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents- Disciplines Wise

S. No.	Disciplines	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
1	Science	40	27.8%
2	M.B.A.	24	16.7%
3	M.C.A.	21	14.6%
4	Computer Science	22	15.3%
5	Library& Information Science	8	5.6%
6	Engineering	29	20.1%
	Total	144	100.0%

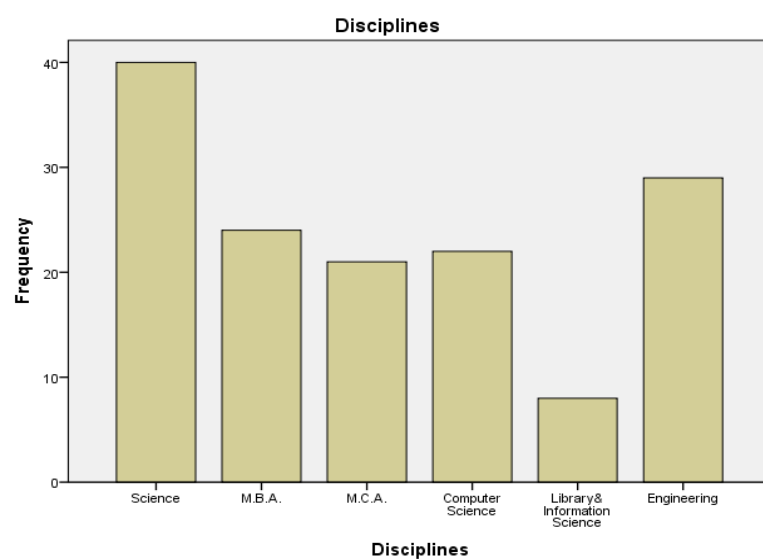


Figure 2: Distribution of Respondents- Disciplines Wise

It is found from the table4 and figure 2 that majority (27.8%) of the respondents belong toScience. Around 20.1%of the respondents are from Engineering. 16.7% respondents are from M. B. A. 15.3% respondents are from Computer Science. Among them 14.6%of the respondents are from M.C.Aand only 5.6% of the respondents belong to Library & Information Science.

Table 5: Plagiarism Awareness Statement

S. No.	Plagiarism Awareness Statement	True	False	Do Not Know	Total
1	Copying from a book/online sources without crediting the source constitutes plagiarism	66	46	32	144
		45.8%	31.9%	22.2%	100.0%
2	If anyone caught in plagiarism, She/he will not be punished?	43	24	77	144
		29.9%	16.7%	53.5%	100.0%
3	Plagiarism can spoil anyone's career.	48	2	94	144
		33.3%	1.4%	65.3%	100.0%
4	If anyone is publishing his/her own work second time that will be treated as "Self plagiarism"?	56	46	42	144
		38.9%	31.9%	29.2%	100.0%
5	Self plagiarism is not punishable.	63	36	45	144
		43.8%	25.0%	31.3%	100.0%

Table 5: Contd.,					
6	Copyright infringement and plagiarism - both are same.	39	31	74	144
		27.1%	21.5%	51.4%	100.0%
7	UGC insists to Universities to use Anti-plagiarism software for checking plagiarism in Thesis.	71	37	36	144
		49.3%	25.7%	25.0%	100.0%
8	Translating from other language is not considered as plagiarism.	34	54	56	144
		23.6%	37.5%	38.9%	100.0%
9	Incorrect references are also type of plagiarism.	22	50	72	144
		15.3%	34.7%	50%	100.0%

It is opined from the above table that 45.5% of the respondents accept that the statement Copying from a book/online sources without crediting the source constitutes plagiarism is true while 31.9% express it is false and 22.2% of respondents do not know whether it is true or false. It is interesting to know through the respondents that 29.9% of the respondents are aware about punishment if they indulge in plagiarism.

33.3% of respondents aware that plagiarism can spoil anyone's career while 65.3% respondents do not know about it. 38.9% of the respondents are aware about self plagiarism and 25.0% of the respondents think that self plagiarism is also punishable whereas 31.3% of the respondents do not aware of self plagiarism is punishable or not.

21.5% of the respondents express sixth statement is false. It shows that only 21.5% of the respondents are aware of the fact that Copyright infringement and plagiarism - both are not same

49.3% of the respondents are aware that UGC insist to Universities to use Anti-plagiarism software for checking plagiarism in Thesis whereas 25.7% of respondents opine that this statement is false and 25.0% of respondents do not know whether it is true or false.

37.5% of respondents claim that Translating from other language is considered as plagiarism but 23.6% of respondents do consider as plagiarism. 38.9% of the respondents do not know whether Translating from other language is considered as plagiarism or not.

Result shows that only 15.3% of the respondents accept that the Incorrect references are also one type of plagiarism, 34.7% of the respondents express that it is false and 50% do not know about it.

CONCLUSIONS

From the analysis it is observed that the awareness about plagiarism among research scholars is getting momentum. Self plagiarism is also great issue of concern. Results shows that majority of respondents are not aware about it and they are publishing their own work second time. So there is need to organise awareness program regarding plagiarism. Continual efforts to educate research scholars about the ills and consequences of plagiarism are desirable. It is believed that through these efforts, we could help research scholars uphold academic honesty.

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